Welfare Measures for Elderly People

1334. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details fo different schemes for the welfare of the elderly people launched/aponsored by Government to mark the year of the elederly people i.e. 1999;

(b) whether there are demands under Government's consideration for some more measures;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A National Policy for Older Persons has been announced which seeks to promote the well being of older persons by attending to their financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other developmental needs. Under this National Policy the Government is committed to facilitate and coordinate efforts of Government departments, local bodies, NGOs, public spirited persons and others aimed at benefiting older persons. Under the Ministry's on going schemes, financial assistance is also being provided to voluntary organisations for construction and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Units for Older Persons.

(b) to (d) The Government is receiving response from individuals and voluntary organisations welcoming the policy and suggesting some more measures like increase in the Old Age Pension, issue of identity cards, concessional bus and railway passes to all the senior citizens concession in property and income taxes, free medical aid by Govt. hospitals and dispensaries, etc. Subject to feasibility and availability of resources, specific programmes interventions shall be formulated and implemented by the Government as a part of its on going efforts in the field.

Budget for Educational Development of SC Girls

1335. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. Three Crores has been allocated in the Budget estimates of her Ministry for the year 1998-99 for the purpose of educational development of the girls belonging to Scheduled Castes of very low literacy level;

(b) if so, how much amount, out of this, has actually been utilized, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 6,04,294/- has been sanctioned till date. The Government have recently received proposals from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar, which are under process. The low utilisation of fund under the Scheme is due to non-receipt of adquate proposals from the State Governments.

आदिवासियों के विकास हेतु योजनाएं

1336. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी :** क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने वर्ष 1998-99 के लिये आदिवासियों तथा आदिवासी क्षेत्रों के विकास हेतु कोई योजना तैयार की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ग) नौंवी पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान प्रत्येक वर्ष इन पर कितनी-कितनी धनराशि खर्च किये जाने की संभावना है, और

(घ) प्रत्येक राज्य को आवंटित निधियों का ब्यौरा क्या है?